

ALLOWANCE

Examiner's Amendment

This Allowance is based on the claims as amended in the Examiner's Amendment to the claims that was authorized and entered in Paper Number 20090930 mailed 10/7/2009. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with E. Russell Tarleton (Reg. No. 31,800) on 9/25/2009.

Reasons for Allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 1-24 are considered allowable since when reading the claims in light of the specification, as per MPEP §2111.01 or In re Sneed, 710 F.2d 1544, 1548, 218 USPQ 385, 388 (Fed. Cir. 1983), none of the references of record alone or in combination disclose or suggest the combination of limitations specified in the independent claims including a conductance comparison between two sets of pluralities of synaptic weighting elements, each having a respective programmable conductance, wherein the conductance comparison does not determine the conductance values (supported in the specification of parent US Patent No. 6,269,352 at e.g. C2L35-50 and C3L15-55 and C4L10-30 and C5L35-55 and C6L25-65 and C7L15-55 and C8L60-C9L8 and C10L15-45) as claimed in the contexts of independent claims 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 11, 12, 13, 16, 17, 18, 19, 22, 23, and 24.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Correspondence Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to BENJAMIN BUSS whose telephone number is (571)272-5831. The examiner can normally be reached on at least Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, or Friday 9AM-5PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Vincent can be reached on 571-272-3080. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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Art Unit 2129

/B. B./
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